

by the natives be so little unpalatable, I doubt not but that if it underwent the usual refining processes of the chemist, that it might be produced perfectly tasteless. The old fur traders on the coast everywhere use it in pulmonary diseases, and even send supplies of it into the interior for the use of friends residing there. It is looked upon almost as a specific, and the few boxes which the Hudson Bay Company's trading vessel brings down on her annual spring voyage (not as an article of commerce, but for the accommodation of friends) are generally bespoke long before. The medical officers of the company have long preferred prescribing it to cod-liver oil, both in their own families and in general practice. One of these gentlemen, whose great intelligence and long experience entitles his opinion to every respect,\* entertains very similar views to those I have advocated, and I have moreover heard him attribute the health and even the existence of the Indians during their exposed life in a *hyperpluviose* climate like that of Fort Simpson and north to Sitka, to the use of oulachan oil. In the course of my journeys into the interior of Oregon and elsewhere, I have had occasion to recommend and procure some for friends troubled with phtisical complaints, and in every instance I have heard its merits extolled in the highest degree.

7. The object of this paper has been to draw the attention of pharmacentists to this oil, with a view to its being tried in a medicinal and commercial way. In 1864 some specimens were sent to England, and, became rancid before arriving, though even in that condition they were valued at the rate of £40 per ton; but I am not aware that it has ever yet been tried in European medical practice. I have no doubt that if efforts were made to procure a sufficient quantity to give it a proper trial at the hands of physicians, whose opinions would carry weight with them, the *Oleum Osmeri* would prove a useful addition to our animal *Materia Medica*, as auxiliary to, or substitute for, the better known and justly esteemed *Oleum Jecoris Aselli* of the Pharmacopœia.

\* I believe that I am at liberty to mention his name,—The Honourable John Sebastian Helmecken, Chief Trader and Surgeon H.B.C., Member of the Legislative Council of British Columbia, and formerly Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island.

*Translated in "Natenhistorske Tidsskrift" etc*